

WATCH YOUR LABEL
AND SEND IN RE-
NEWAL BEFORE
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
EXPIRES.

THE ROBESONIAN

WATCH YOUR LABEL
ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE DISCONTINUED
WHEN THEY
EXPIRE.

VOL. LIV.—NO. 23.

LUMBERTON, N. C., MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1923.

COUNTRY, GOD AND TRUTH.

ESTABLISHED 1876. PRICE FIVE CENTS
\$2.00 A YEAR, DUE IN ADVANCE.MEN CHARGED WITH BEATING WOMEN
MUST STAND TRIAL IN HIGHER COURTMike Lawson, Jule Brogden and John Hedgpeth
Released on \$15,000 Bond—First Degree Burglary is Charge.NOT A CONFESSED KLUX-
ER COULD BE FOUNDRecorder Halts Hearing After
Ten Witnesses for Defense Had
Testified in Effort to Prove
Alibi for Lawson.

B. M. Lawson, chief of police at Fairmont, and Jule Brogden and John Hedgpeth of Proctorville were bound over to July term of Superior court by Recorder W. B. Ivey Friday morning at 11:30 on the charge of first degree burglary which grew out of the flogging of Mrs. Hattie Purvis and Mrs. Mary Watson by masked and robbed men in a negro churchyard near Proctorville on the night of April 14th.

After the defense had put on ten witnesses Recorder Ivey halted the proceedings, stating that it was useless to take any more time on the case as he did not have jurisdiction to find the defendants innocent or guilty, that he had found probable cause and that unless the defense and state insisted on producing more evidence he would close the trial and place the men under bond recommended by the state for their appearance at July term of Superior court. After a conference with counsel a \$15,000 bond was required, framed so that if any one of the three fails to appear at the July court the entire bond will be forfeited.

The bond was signed by C. W. Graham, H. Barnes, J. R. Lawson, Dock Lawson, W. R. Surles, Walter Watts, J. W. Walters and L. P. Graham.

Long before the hour for trial, people began pouring into the courthouse and when everything was in readiness to proceed with the hearing several minutes were required for Sheriff R. E. Lewis to get the crowd pushed back and seated, as many as could get seats. It was a large but very orderly crowd, which stood and sat quiet with their hearing capacities taxed to the limit for what had promised to be sensational evidence. They were not disappointed.

The first witness introduced by the state was Mrs. Hattie Purvis, one of the victims of the outrage that has cast a dark shadow over the best county in the state. She said that she was 34 years of age, had been married 19 years, and had recently moved from the farm to Proctorville, before moving to Rocky Mount, where her husband was, in order that her children might attend school until the end of the term. When asked if she knew Mike Lawson, Jule Brogden and John Hedgpeth she answered in the affirmative. Her story was as follows:

"Hybert Leggett, who is a relative of mine, came to my house about first dark. My son Conrad, and Norine Watson, who had come with her mother and sister to my house, went to a meeting of the B. Y. P. U. Dr. Ricks came in a few minutes and said that he had been told by a close friend of his that he had better warn me that the Ku Klux Klan was coming to my house tonight but for me not to get frightened. I called Hybert, who heard what Dr. Ricks said. Dr. Ricks then left and I went through the house and locked all the doors and windows as soon as Hybert left. Conrad and Norine returned from B. Y. P. U. and we were all sitting around talking about the Klan coming when we heard a knock at the front door. I went to the door and saw through the glass men in robes and masks. There was a light on the front porch and I at once recognized Jule Brogden by his eyes. They demanded that I open the door, which I refused to do, calling Conrad, intending to have him bring my pistol. Then the back door was broken open and 6 or 7 masked and robbed men came up the hall, led by John Hedgpeth. They all had pistols and pointing them at me made me open the front door, and more of them came in that way led by Jule Brogden and Mike Lawson. John had on the same pants and shoes I have seen him wear for the past six months. There was a red cross on the robes worn by the men. Lawson had a policeman's club and a pistol. They were dressed like the members of the Ku Klux Klan dress when on parade. Nathalie Watson was so frightened that she screamed, and Mike Lawson hit her over the head with his club. Two of the men took Norine and Nathalie out of the house and shoved them toward their home. Then they took Mrs. Watson and threw her in a Ford touring car which was waiting outside, and threw me in her lap. One of the men put his arm around Mrs. Watson's neck and began choking her. They drove on through the town and down the road to the negro church about a half mile away, where they stopped and waited. Then they took Mrs. Watson and bent her over a log, raised her dress, flashed a spot light on her and Mike began beating her with a leather strap. I

recognized Mike Lawson when he raised his hood and wiped his nose and when I started to holler, Mike said 'hold a pistol on Mrs. Purvis.' Then they took me and placed me across the log in the same manner and Mike beat me. I had taken down my hair at home and had some hair pins in my hand. I raised my hands nearly to my head and managed to move the blindfold a little so I could see. I told them I was trying to put my hair pins in my hair when they commanded me to put my hands down. After they beat us they walked back up the road with us and Mrs. Watson said, 'I don't believe I'll ever get there.' Mike said 'Don't you reckon a few more with this will help you.' When we reached the tobacco warehouse I told them I was not going any further with them, that I was ashamed to be caught with such a crowd. Mike said that if anything was ever heard of this they would get our heads next time, that there were 10,000 of them."

Mrs. Purvis testified that she had shown the places effected by the beating to Miss Elizabeth Frye, county welfare officer, Dr. E. E. Hardin, county health officer, J. A. Sharpe, editor of The Robesonian, and her lawyers. She said that she was not positive as to the exact time, but that it was between 10 and eleven o'clock. On cross examination Mrs. Purvis stood the grueling attacks from the counsel for the defense in an admirable manner, admitting that she had been accused of running an immoral house, but denying the fact as true. She was on the stand one hour and 18 minutes.

Mrs. Watson Breaks Down.
Mrs. Mary Watson corroborated Mrs. Purvis' testimony, except that she did not recognize anyone except Mike Lawson. She said that the Klan accused her of raising a crook and rearing her children in the wrong way. Tears came to the witness' eyes as she told of her daughter sitting on the bed with her until day, thinking she was going to die, and of how her husband would not sympathize with her and told her that she got just what she deserved.

Clubbed Girl on Head.
Norine, 18 year-old daughter of Mrs. Watson, corroborated the statements of Mrs. Purvis and her mother, except that she recognized only one man, Jule Brogden, identifying him by his greasy hand and his eyes, which could be seen easily through the large holes in his hood.

Nathalie, 12-year-old daughter of Mrs. Watson, took the chair and made an excellent witness, corroborating the other testimony except that she did not recognize any of the men. She said a large man hit her over the head with a club when she screamed. Conrad, 16, Aristo, 13, and Ricks, 10, sons of Mrs. Purvis, were called to the stand in order and testified as the others except that they recognized only Brogden and Hedgpeth. Ricks, however, stated that the man wearing yellow-lensed glasses was recognized by him as P. P. Smith. His mother had mentioned seeing a man whom she could not positively identify, wearing yellow-lensed eye glasses, as the one called "judge" at the place of the flogging.

Mr. Henry Atkinson of Proctorville testified that he saw 18 masked men in Proctorville and that the number on the Ford in which six of them rode was either off or covered up. The Watson girls were at his home when he got there, he said.

Sprunt Floyd corroborated Atkinson's testimony except that he saw a number on the Ford but could not read it.

A Shocking Sight.
J. A. Sharpe, editor of The Robesonian, testified on the stand at the request of Solicitor T. A. McNeill and Mr. Stephen McIntyre Mrs. Purvis and Mrs. Watson had shown him on April 20 the evidences of their beating, that it was a most shocking sight, the back and side of the right leg of each of them being black and blue from the bend of the knee to the waistline, the horrible appearance of these marks nearly a week after the beating indicating that they had been subjected to inconceivably brutal and severe treatment. He testified further that Mrs. Purvis had told him she recognized the three defendants as being members of the masked band that inflicted the punishment.

After this testimony the state rested, reserving the right to call Dr. E. R. Hardin to the stand when he could be found and brought into court.

Attempted to Prove Alibi.
The defense offered as its first witness C. E. Grantham of Fairmont, followed by M. B. McDonald, J. R. Jacobs, J. A. Galloway, T. C. McIlhenny, P. P. Smith and J. W. Williamson, all of Fairmont, who testified to having seen Lawson on the night of April 14th at different times between the hours of 9:30 and 11 o'clock. Mr. P. P. Smith did not stand up well under the cross examination and admitted that he was not positive.

Continued on page 8

Big Day of Orrum
School Finals

Address by J. W. Bailey Friday Morning and Play Friday Night
Last of Series of Six Delightful Events—New Brick Building Almost Completed for Consolidated Orrum, Oakton, Nye and Bloomingdale Districts—School Now Eligible for Accredited List—Ten Graduates.

Within a stone's throw of a splendid new brick high school building which is nearly completed and which will be used next fall for the consolidated Orrum, Nye, Oakton and Bloomingdale districts, Orrum high school closed Friday its successful 8-months' 1922-23 session after a series of six entertainments that began on April 12. Features of the last day were an address by J. W. Bailey of Raleigh, delivery of diplomas to 5 girls and 5 boys, a picnic dinner on the grounds and a final play, "The Last Leaf", Friday night, with a baseball game Friday afternoon between Orrum and Lumberton.

Address by Bailey
"Learn to do, learn to think, seek the common good, remember thy Creator" was, in a word, the message which Mr. Bailey impressed in his address with characteristic logic, clearness and eloquence without the least striving after effect. He laid particular emphasis upon the importance of using one's brain, teaching one's mind to think, sticking to a subject until you think through it, thinking over what you are going to do. He quoted statistics to show that while only one person in 37,000 with a common school education accomplishes something worth while, one person in 187 who has had a college education forges ahead of the crowd. He pointed out that the person who starts out merely to make a big man of himself is a failure to start with. It is the men who give themselves to the common good, like Jesus, Mohammed and other great religious leaders, who never had a dollar, who are truly great. It was an inspiring message.

Top Graduates
The exercises began Friday at 11 a. m. with a hymn, invocation, and a chorus. Following the address, a piano quartette was rendered by Misses McQueen, Daniels, Wade and Shepherd, after which diplomas were delivered by Prof. R. L. Pittman, principal of the school, to the following: Misses Chatt Leggett, Ophelia Floyd, Lizzie Mae Britt, English Wade and Wilmoth Leggett, Messrs. Caswell Britt, Hubert Rhodes, Ralph Horne, Albert Rice and Dan McCormick.

Prof. Pittman announced that Seventh grade certificates had been earned by the following, to whom they would be presented later: Ruth Stone, Livy Shepherd, Retha Surles, Cleo Bissell, Walter Lewis, Margaret Graham, Emma Lee Lamb and Flora Britt.
The following were awarded prizes for attendance, all having attended during the entire term without missing a day: Frank Leggett, Nina Atkinson, Wesley Branch, Thema Branch (Thelma had not missed a day in 7 years), Furrey Britt, Caswell Britt, Annie Leggett, Livy Shepherd, Myrtle Rose Shepherd, Eadie Britt, Annie Lee Branch, Myrtle Surles, Margaret Shepherd.

Singing of "Ho for Carolina" by the school brought the morning exercises to a close.

Followed a most excellent and bountiful dinner, spread upon a long table on the grounds, of which all were cordially invited to partake.
Graduating Exercises.
Graduating exercises were held Thursday night, Caswell Britt, president of the class, made a short talk; Miss Chatt Leggett, secretary of the class, was gifforian; Albert Rice, valedictorian; Miss Wilmoth Leggett, salutatorian; Hubert Rhodes, grumbler; Miss Ophelia Floyd, historian; Miss Lizzie Mae Britt, poet; Ralph Horne, statistician; Miss English Wade, prophet; Dan McCormick, last will and testament. After the class farewell song and duet by Misses English Wade and Chatt Leggett, a play was given, "Graduates' Choice."

Other Entertainments.
The first of the pre-commencement entertainments was a musical recital given on the night of the 12th by Miss English Wade. An operetta was given on the night of the 19th by Miss Ellen McQueen, music teacher. On the night of the 20th an operetta, "Snow White," was given by the primary department. On the 24th, a miscellaneous program was rendered: "Japanese Wedding," trial "Murder of the King's English," "Boothblack" and "Jumbo Jum."

This was Prof. R. L. Pittman's sixth year as principal of the Orrum school and he will head the school again next year. He teaches mathematics. Members of his faculty during the year just closed were: Miss Elizabeth Stone, Latin and French; Miss Louise Daniels, history and science; Miss Esther Wellington, English and business; Miss Stella Moreland, 6th and 7th grades; Miss Revah Newton, 3rd, 4th and 5th; Miss Mary Thompson, 1st and 2nd; Miss Ellen McQueen, music; Mr. H. W. Buiard, agriculture.

New School Building.
The high school building, which is almost completed, is a splendid

MASS MEETING:
Ladies and Gentlemen:

There is a mass meeting called to be held at the court house tomorrow, Tuesday night, at 8 o'clock to discuss our big celebration to be held here on May 10th and other things of vital importance to the citizens of Lumberton.

If you are interested in the school children of Robeson county, be there; if you are interested in a cleaner, better and more prosperous Lumberton, be there; if you are interested in the Confederate veterans of your county, be there; if you are interested in the ex-service men of your county, be there.

If you are not interested in either, please make a special effort to be present at this meeting and we will do our best to make you become interested in one or all of the above causes. Come one, come all, ladies and gentlemen alike. There will be several interesting talks by ladies and gentlemen of your city. Come and hear what they have to say.

W. B. Ivey, Com. American Legion
E. M. Johnson, Mayor

Charged With Violating
Marriage Laws

White Man and Woman Said to be an Indian in Jail for Charge of Violating Inter-racial Marriage Laws—Man to be Tried on Other Charges.

Bob Green, a white man of many aliases and a fugitive from justice for the past two years, was captured Friday by Officers J. E. Carper, R. C. Miller and E. P. Bryant in the lower end of Maxton township and is now in the county jail awaiting trial, the date of which has not yet been announced.

More than two years ago Green was arrested on the charge of manufacturing liquor and placed under a \$400 bond, which he forfeited when he failed to appear for trial. He left this part of the country and went to South Carolina, where he remained until a short time ago, when he moved back to Robeson county and located in Alfordville township.

Not only will he be tried for jumping bond and on liquor charge, but warrants have been issued for him and the woman he has been living with charging violation of the inter-racial marriage laws, his wife being reputed to be an Indian, the daughter of Tom Dees of Alfordville township. His wife has been placed in jail on the charge and is awaiting a hearing, which will be given at an early date.

Recorder's Court

W. M. Rivers Found Guilty of Giving Worthless Check—Appeals from Road Sentence and Gives Bond.

W. M. Rivers and Charlie Covington were before Recorder W. B. Ivey Saturday morning and plead not guilty to a charge of giving worthless check. Rivers was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months on the county roads, while Covington was found not guilty. Notice of appeal was given and bond in the sum of \$500 was made by Mr. R. F. Benton.

The check which was given to B. J. McNeill, colored, for two bales of cotton, was signed by Covington and Rivers, the amount being \$311.13. The check was deposited and returned by the Bank of Chadbourne unpaid and protested. Rivers admitted signing the check "Covington and Rivers."

Solicitor F. Eitel Carlyle was assisted in the prosecution by Mr. Dixon McLean. Mr. L. J. Britt represented Mr. Rivers, and Mr. W. S. Britt represented Mr. Covington.

Miss Ethel Covington of Rockingham, now a member of the faculty of the St. Pauls high school, passed through Lumberton Saturday enroute to Fairmont, where she spent the week-end as the guest of Mrs. Geo. L. Grantham.

Mr. W. W. Lewis of Fairmont was a Lumberton visitor Thursday.

brick structure which has 13 rooms. Eleven of these will be used for classrooms, one for library and office, and one for a teachers' rest room. The building cost \$27,000. It is a modern structure with steam-heating plant.

There were 275 pupils in the school this year, 110 or 115 of these being in the high school. There were 25 students from Columbus county, which is rather an unusual thing. During the year just closed this school, which has for years had an enviable reputation, met for the first time all the requirements for accredited rating and it is now eligible for the accredited list of high schools in the state. This was brought about by the addition of 500 volumes to the library and the addition of a science course.

Trustees of the school are: Messrs. L. H. Warwick, M. W. Hedgpeth, D. R. Hardin, J. A. Nye and J. A. Atkinson.

At least three, and possibly five or six, new teachers will be added to the faculty next year.

Quarterly Conference Deplores
Whipping Outrage

Strong Resolutions Adopted by Chestnut Street Methodist Church Conference Against Recent Shameful Outrage in County.

Quarterly conference of Chestnut Street Methodist church in session last night, Presiding Elder J. H. Shore presiding, unanimously passed the following resolution:
"Believing that this governing body of our church should not allow to pass unnoticed acts of lawlessness that strike at the very foundations of our civilization, be it

Resolved, That the quarterly conference of Chestnut Street Methodist church of Lumberton deeply deplores the recent shameful outrage committed on the night of April 14, last, at Proctorville, this county, when a band of men, disguised in hoods and robes, entered a private home, took therefrom two defenceless women, and severely beat them on their naked flesh with a strap.

"Resolved further, that we regard such an outrage as this, and any other attempts to regulate the conduct of individuals without due process of law, whether perpetrated by masked or unmasked men and in the name of whatever organization committed, as a lynch law and a terrible menace against which all law-abiding citizens who love their country should set their faces like a flint and to check which such citizens should render every aid in their power.

"Resolved further, that we call upon all parents and teachers in season and out of season to stress upon the minds and hearts of those in their care the supreme importance of profound reverence for law, flagrant evidences of disrespect for which may be seen on every hand and which if unchecked will make of our fair land a slaughter-house and a by-word and a hissing."

Mob Violence in
Robeson Denounced

Recent Outrage in Robeson County Denounced by Dr. Beaman in Sermon at Chestnut Street Methodist Church Yesterday Morning—Would Wreck Our Civilization.

In a strong sermon at Chestnut Street Methodist church yesterday morning on the leadership of Jesus Christ, the salvation of the nations depending upon following that leadership, Dr. R. C. Beaman strongly denounced the recent outrage that has brought shame upon Robeson county. After referring to the world war, the liquor traffic and other conditions the world over which tend to drag the world back to an uncivilized state, he exclaimed:

"Is Robeson county civilized? Not when hooded men drag defenceless women from their homes and beat them cruelly on their naked flesh; not when men try to take the law into their own hands. We must have the protection of the law. Law enforcement cannot be in the hands of private citizens. Is Florida civilized, with recently-revealed conditions in her prison camps?

"That is the spirit that would wreck all civilization.

"There is not a spot ten miles square on God's green earth where Jesus is followed absolutely and loyally, but thank God we are marching on and Jesus leads the way, in spite of mob violence."

Vote for Co-OP Delegates.

All tobacco signers of the Co-operative Marketing association who received card with names for delegates are requested by County Farm Demonstrator O. O. Dukes to have the cards in by Saturday. A ballot will be open in the court house from 9 to 12 Saturday and those who do not care to mail cards will have the privilege of casting them in the box during that time.

J. C. Soles, about 24 years old who gave his home as Wilmington, Del., passed through Lumberton Friday on his way to San Diego, Cuba, from New York city, leaving the metropolis April 19th. According to the traveler he is making the trip free as far as cost of transportation is concerned. He rides with anyone, on anything, that he can, provided the cost is nothing. He never rides a train, but has been assisted by traveling men and tourists. After reaching his destination he will return to his home in Delaware and write a book entitled "Trust To Luck."

Meets Next at Goldsboro.

HENDERSON, April 27.—Goldsboro won out in the contest for the next meeting place of the woman's missionary conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, North Carolina conference, in session here. Invitations were presented also by Greenville, Wilmington and New Bern.

LOST—Class Pin, gold, "St. Peter's Hospital Charlotte, N. C., inscribed on it. Was missed Saturday in Lumberton. Finder return to Robesonian office and receive reward.

Cotton Market

Reported by J. H. Barrington

Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 26 3-4 cents the pound.

Items of Local News

—License has been issued for the marriage of Annie Mae Kinlaw and Howard T. Powers.
—Regular Communication St. Alban's Lodge No. 114, A. F. & A. M., Tuesday night, 8 o'clock.

—The town board will hold its regular monthly meeting in the town hall tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock.

—Dr. Rowland Deese is able to be out today after being confined to his home on Cedar street for a week on account of sickness.

—A motion picture entitled "The Third Alarm" will be shown at the Pastime Theatre next Monday night under the auspices of the local fire department.

—Quincey Harvey and Rosa Patterson, a colored couple of Lumberton, were married in the court house Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock, Justice Ben G. Floyd officiating.

—Mr. J. E. Kinlaw, tax-lister for Howellsville township was a Lumberton visitor this morning. He is advertising his list of appointments for listing taxes elsewhere in this issue.

—Mr. Everett Britt of the Mt. Elm section brought to The Robesonian office Thursday afternoon, a curiosity hen egg. It resembled very much, and was about the size of, a large peanut in the hull.

—Dr. D. D. King left this afternoon for Pinehurst, where he will attend a joint meeting of the Virginia and North Carolina Dental associations, which will be in session throughout Thursday, May 3rd.

—Miss Hazel Carlyle returned this morning from Greensboro, where she went Thursday to attend the recital Thursday evening of her sister, Miss Sarah Carlyle, who graduates in expression from Greensboro college this year.

—Mr. L. R. Varner returned last night from Gates county, where he went Saturday to see his aunt Mrs. Geo. R. Eure, who had been injured in a fall. Miss Blanch Melvin, trained nurse, left last night for Mrs. Eure's home to be with her during her illness.

—Miss Ruth Wilcox, a member of the Lumberton high school faculty last year and now a member of the faculty of the high school at Bamberg, S. C., and Miss Elsie Wilcox, of the St. Paul high school faculty, spent the week-end in Lumberton with friends.

—The last meeting of the Lumberton post of the American legion before the big 10th of May celebration will be held in the club rooms Thursday night and Commander W. B. Ivey has issued instructions that every member of the post be present, as a great deal of important matter will have to be cleared at this meeting.

—Dr. Chas. H. Durham, pastor of the First Baptist church, underwent a slight operation for throat trouble in Charlotte last week. Following the operation he went to Hendersonville where he is spending a few days with relatives. He is expected to return to Lumberton this week. Dr. Durham's pulpit was filled yesterday morning and evening by Dr. Joseph L. Peacock, Superintendent of Shaw university, Raleigh, who preached two exceptionally good sermons.

—Mrs. W. W. Lewis and Miss Katie Buie, members of the county board of education, Mr. John W. Ward, chairman of the county commissioners, Mr. E. J. Britt, county attorney, and Mr. Rexford Stephens, secretary to the county road board, returned Saturday morning from Wilmington, where they attended the conference of county superintendents of public instruction, members of county boards of education and county commissioners of the state with State Superintendent E. C. Brooks, in session there Friday. The state was divided into 5 districts and 5 different conferences were held by Supt. Brooks, the one held in Wilmington Friday being for 20 counties in Eastern Carolina.

LUKE BRITT SPENT FEW
HOURS AT HOSPITAL.

Man Awaiting Trial on Charge of Murder Under Guard While Being Treated at Hospital.

Luke Britt, who has been confined to the county jail since the finding of the remains of E. R. Shepherd several months ago charged with the murder of Shepherd, had to be removed to the Thompson hospital Thursday night for treatment, returned to the jail Friday night, where the county health officer is now treating him.

While at the hospital the accused man was under guard and not out of jail on a \$1500 bond, as was rumored on the streets during his stay there.

Mrs. C. H. Durham is spending a few days with friends and relatives in Coolemees.

Gasoline 27 Cents

Fuller's Service

Station.

Corner 2nd and Chestnut Street